

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/544,765
Attorney Docket No. 104980-159139

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12-13, 19-20 and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,362,575 to *Chang* ("*Chang*"). Applicant respectfully submits that *Chang* does not disclose all elements of the claims as amended. More specifically, *Chang* does not disclose a current restricting unit that adjusts the load on a lamp unit.

Applicant initially notes that Examiner has apparently inadvertently identified U.S. Patent No. 6,218,773 as being the basis for rejection, instead of the *Chang* patent. Applicant's response herein refers to the *Chang* patent, and Applicant appreciates the courtesy of a reply in the event that Examiner is in fact referring to U.S. Patent No. 6,218,773 instead.

Chang discloses a circuit for regulating the voltage output to multiple discharge lamps. With reference to FIG. 2, *Chang* discloses a lamp current sensor S that informs a control circuit/reference voltage generator 19 of the total lamp filament current (Col. 6:1-4, 19-22). The generator 19 outputs a reference voltage V_{ref} to a compensator/controller circuit 22, which processes V_{ref} into a control voltage output to a voltage controlled oscillator 27 and on to a transistor drive circuit 30 (Col. 6:27-55). This drive circuit 30 controls transistors Q2, Q3 so as to alternately apply or cut off voltage to the lamps (Col. 6:56-60).

Chang therefore discloses a voltage controlling circuit that either turns on or shuts off voltage to a lamp unit. It does not disclose a current restricting unit.

Chang also does not disclose a current restricting unit that adjusts current load. In fact, quite the opposite: the circuit of *Chang* adjusts voltage so as to "maintain the lamp current approximately constant" (Col. 9:28) (emphasis added).

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over *Chang* for at least the reasons that it discloses a "current restricting unit" which "adjusts the load on the lamp unit." Similarly, independent claim 21 is patentable over *Chang* for at least the reasons that it discloses a "current control unit" that "adjusts a current supply to the first lamp and the second lamp." Likewise, claim 26 is patentable over *Chang* as disclosing "adjusting current input to the lamps," and claim 27 is patentable over *Chang* for disclosing "a current restricting unit that adjusts a load on the lamp unit."

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The remaining claims depend from one of claims 1 or 21, and are therefore patentable for at least these same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-27 are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8/4/05

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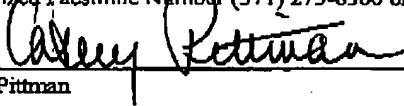
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Transmitted by facsimile herewith for filing are the following documents for:

U.S. Utility Patent Application S/N: 10/789,679

FILED: February 27, 2004

INVENTOR(s): Jang et al.

Enclosed are:

1. Facsimile Cover Sheet to USPTO (1 pg);
2. Transmittal Form (1 pg);
3. Response to Office Action (11 pgs); and
4. Certificate of Facsimile Transmission (1 pg)

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